

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-02 SY-04 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 SCA-01 NEA-14 SCS-03

DRC-01 L-03 H-03 PRS-01 /090 W

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P 191430Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2854

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ASMARA 0615

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJECT: MISSIONARIES AND THE ELF

REF: ASMARA 0613

1. ARTHUR STELZER, AMERICAN EVANGELICAL MISSION, BROUGHT THE FOLLOWING LETTERS TO CONSULATE EVENING OF 18 JULY.

LETTER NR. 1

QUOTE

NO. 462

EIRTEAN LIBERATION FRONT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 15-7-74

WE RECIVED YOUR LETTER DATED JULY 10. 1976. IN YOUR LETTER THE MAIN POINTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE RED CROSS WILL BE ARRIVING IN AFABET ON JULY 11 IF THERE IS AN AIRPLANE AVAILABLE TO TREAT THE PEOPLE AND INVESTIGATE DESEASE.

(B) THE MISSION COULD NOT COME OUT IN THE FIELD A LOT OF REASONS WAS WROTE IN YOUR LETTER AND YOU ANSWERED THAT ONLY FROM ETHIOPIAN CAMPS TO CURE THE PEOPLE.

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(C) NAME OF MISSIONS IN ERITREA REQUESTING PERMISSION LETTERS

AND WE REPLY IT LIKE THESE:

(A) RED CROSS SHOULD HAVE TO CONTACT US FIRST BEFORE IT COMES OUT TO ERITREA FIELD REASON (1) TO TAKE ADVISE FROM US (2) TO SHOW THEM THE MOST NEEDED PART OF ERITREA WHICH IS MOSTLY HARMED BY DEASEASE. THEREFORE, WE ASK RED CROSS TO WRITE US A LETTER IN ORDER TO TAKE INSTRUCTIONS FROM US AMERICAN EVANGELICAL MISSION

(B) WE ARE JUST CONFUSED WHEN WE SEE THE SECOND POINT THAT YOU CAN NOT COME OUT IN THE FIELD. BUT WE WANT TO TELL YOU REALLY THAT YOU CANNOT HELP ALL ERITREAN PEOPLE FROM ETHIOPIAN CENTERS BECAUSE WE KNOW OUR PEOPLE DOES NOT LIKE TO BE CURED FROM ETHIOPIAN CENTERS. THEREFORE IF YOU WANT TO HELP THE PEOPLE HEARTDLY COME OUT TO THE FIELD IN THIS FIVE DAYS PROMPTLY WITH MALARIA MEDICIENS WHICH CAN CURE ABOUT 10,000 PEOPLE OR SEND THE MEDICIENS WITH OTHER ERITREAN MEN. IF THESE ALL IS IMPOSSIBLE SEND US THE MEDICIENS IN ORDER TO CURE THE PEOPLE OURSELVES. BUT AS WHAT YOU SAID TO CURE OR HELP THE PEOPLE FROM THE CAMPS WE CONSIDER THIS LIKE THE MISSION WANTS TO CHANGE ITS IDEA OF HELPING OUR PEOPLE.

(C) THE PERMISSION LETTERS OF ALL MISSION'S IS GOING TO BE GIVEN WHEN THEY WRITE THEIR APPLICATION LETTERS EVERY MISSION HIS OWN LETTER AND SIGNATURE AND STAMP. BECAUSE IN YOUR LETTER ONLY THEIR NAMES IS WRITTEN.

N.B. REPLY US WITHIN FIVE DAYS AND ALL LETTERS SHOULD HAVE TO COME BY THIS MESSENGER.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

/SIGNATURE/

UNQUOTE

LETTER NR. 2

QUOTE

TO: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT JULY 18, 1974

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WE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER DATED 15/7/74. IN YOUR LETTER, YOU WROTE ABOUT (A) RED CROSS CONTACT (?) YOUR QUESTION CONCERNING OUR COMING INTO THE FIELD (C) PERMISSION LETTERS FOR MISSION. TAKING THESE POINTS IN ORDER, OUR REPLY IS:

(A) THE RED CROSS HAS ALREADY BEEN WORKING IN THE AREA OF AFABET. NO DOUBT YOU HAVE ALREADY MADE CONTACT WITH THE. THEY ARE AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHO CAN RECEIVE PERMISSION TO GO TO

PLACES WHERE WE CANNOT GO. FROM NOW ON, YOU CAN CONTACT THEM DIRECTLY.

(B) IN ALL OF OUR LETTERS TO YOUR, WE HAVE SPOKEN ONLY ABOUT SENDING A MEDICAL TEAM INTO YOUR AREA TO TREAT CHOLERA. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED TO US BY PEOPLE IN THE AREA AND BY THE RED CROSS THAT THAT CHOLERA DISEASE IS PAST. THEREFORE, WE DO NOT SEE THE NEED TO SEND A MEDICAL TEAM. YOU SPEAK IN YOU LETTER ABOUT PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM MALARIA. WE ALREADY KNOW THIS AND ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT IT. HOWEVER, TO TREAT MALARIA DISEASE, YOU NEED A LONG ACTING MALARIA READICATION PROGRAM WHICH OUR MEDICAL TEAM CANNOT SUPPLY. WE HAVE THEREFORE, GIVEN YOUR INFORMATION ABOUT MALARIA TO THE RED CROSS DIRECTOR. PERHAPS, THE RED CROSS CAN HELP YOU.

IT IS OUR DESIRE TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF ERITREA AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE BUILT OUR HOSPITAL IN GHINDA AND THERE WE WILL GIVE HELP TO ANY ONE WHO COMES TO US. AS MUCH AS WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP EVERYBODY IN ERITREA, WE CANNOT DO SO. WE HAVE PERMISSION FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE MEDICINES TO SICK PEOPLE BUT WE CANNOT GIVE YOU A SUPPLY OF MEDICINE. YOU HAVE PROMISED IN YOUR LETTER OF PERMISSION DATED 22/6/74 NOT TO OPPOSE US IN OUR WORK. BY ASKING FOR A SUPPLY OF MEDICINE, WE THINK YOU ARE OPPOSING US AND ARE HINDERING US FROM COMING TO GHINDA TO CONTINUE OUR WORK.

WE THINK THIS BECAUSE IF WE GIVE YOU MEDICINE, WE ARE BECOMING INVOLVED IN POLITICS. WE CAME TO THIS COUNTRY TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST AND TO HELP THE SICK. WE DO NOT WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN POLITICS. PLEASE RESPECT OUR NEUTRAL POSITION.

(C) ENCLOSED, PLEASE FIND THE APPLICATION FOR LETTERS
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OF PERMISSION FROM OTHER MISSIONS.
(SIGNED/ ARTHUR STELZER

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-02 SY-04 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 SCA-01 NEA-14 SCS-03

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P 191430Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2855

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ASMARA 0615

STELZER OBSERVED THAT IF ELF PERSISTS IN DEMAND FOR CONTROL OVER MISSION ACTIVITIES, OR EVEN IN DEMANDS FOR MEDICINE, MISSION WILL TERMINATE ACTIVITIES. IN ANY EVENT, STELTZER WANTS TO BREAK OFF CORRESPONDENCE WITH ELF.

2. DURING CONVERSATION, STELZER SAID THAT SVEN LAMPHILL, ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS, ACCOMPANIED BY A NURSE FROM SIM, HAD SPENT 5 DAYS IN AFABED AREA TO TREAT THE PEOPLE. ACCORDING TO STELZER, LAMPHILL WAS ACCORDED WARM TREATMENT BY 2 BRIGADE COMMANDERS OF ELF. HE SAID THAT HAMPHILL DID NOT THINK THE ELF COULD UNDERTAKE ANY LARGE-SCALE MILITARY ACTIVITY FROM THE WEAPONRY HE SAW.

3. STELZER CONFIRMED A REPORT THAT THE MIDDLE EAST GENERAL MISSION, WHICH HAS A CLINIC IN HAICOTA NEAR RESENEY, HAD RECEIVED AN EXTORTION LETTER ON ELF STATIONERY BEARING ELF SEAL. STELZER SAID THAT THE LETTER, WHICH INDICATED KNOWLEDGE OF THE MISSION'S FINANCES, WAS WRITTEN IN ALMOST IMPECCABLE ENGLISH. HE ADDED THAT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO POLICE SENT AN AUDITOR TO STUDY THE MISSION'S BOOKS FOR A TWO-WEEK PERIOD, AND IT CONCEIVABLE EXTORTIAN LETTER SENT BY CRIMINAL ELEMENTS INVOLVED WITH POLICE.

COMENT:

4. VARYING ATTITUDES OF LOCAL ELF COMMANDS TOWARD FOREIGN MEDICAL MISSIONS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF ERITREA (SEE ALSO REFTEL) EMPHASIZE LACK OF COHESIVE LEADERSHIP. IN GENERAL, ELF ELMENTS
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APPEAR TO WELCOME MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY EXPATRIATES (MISSIONARIES AND OTHERS). HOWEVER, IT ALSO BECOMING EVIDENT THAT SOME, AT LEAST, DEMONSTRATING INCREASING DESIRE CHANNEL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO DIRECT ELF ENDS. IT UNLIKELY THAT ANY MEDICAL GROUP WILL ACCEPT OPERATIONAL ELF DICTATION.

SHERRY

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